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APPLICANTS: Yamaguchi, et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 09/202,455 GROUP NO.: 1646  
FILING DATE (U.S.) December 15, 1998 EXAMINER: Fozia Hamud  
TITLE: NOVEL PROTEIN AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE PROTEIN

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP NO. 1646

Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION, MADE FINAL

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action, made final, mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 8, 2002. Applicants enclose a petition for a one month extension of time extending the date for response by one month up to and including May 8, 2002. Applicants enclose a check to cover the extension fee and believe that no other fees are due. Should Applicants be in error, please charge Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Applicants submit the following amendment and remarks.

AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 82 and 88. Please amend the claims as follows:

69. (Thrice Amended) A purified and isolated Osteoclastogenesis Inhibitory Factor (OCIF) binding protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 16, wherein said OCIF-binding protein promotes osteoclast differentiation and maturation.
80. (Thrice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding an OCIF-binding protein, said nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence

06, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100